



July 23, 2010

Congressman Dan Lipinski  
1717 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lipinski:

On behalf of the American Foundry Society, we commend you for introducing the ***National Manufacturing Strategy Act of 2010*** (H.R. 4692). We strongly support this measure which would require the President to develop a quadrennial national manufacturing strategy and identify key policy goals critical to the future of U.S. manufacturing. This represents the first step in restoring our manufacturing competitiveness.

Over the last decade, America has lost one-third of all its manufacturing jobs, including thousands of jobs in the metalcasting industry. Metalcasters face the most intense global competition in history from companies operating in countries that enjoy government trade protections, fixed currency levels and a variety of subsidies.

The U.S. metalcasting industry is critical for the future of our economic and national security. More than 90% of all manufactured goods and capital equipment use castings as engineered components or rely on castings for their manufacture. In fact, foundries supply millions of castings a year for use in our military's jets, helicopters, ships, tanks, weapon systems and other vital components.

AFS serves as the voice of the North American metalcasting industry. Our association is comprised of more than 7,000 members representing more than 700 U.S.-based metalcasting firms, students, industry suppliers and customers in every state in the country. Our members produce thousands of different types of metal castings ranging from aircraft and automobile components to cookware and surgical equipment.

There are over 2,000 metal casting facilities in the U.S. employing more than 200,000 workers. Foundries are predominantly small businesses, with 80% having less than 100 employees. Many of these shops are still family-owned.

The time is now for the U.S. to develop its own national pro-manufacturing strategy to advance policies that will enhance U.S. industrial competitiveness. Again, thank you for your leadership and support of American manufacturing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry Call".

Jerry Call  
Executive Vice President